

WHEREAS, The State must transform a welfare system that fosters dependence, low self-esteem, and irresponsible behavior to one that rewards work and fosters self-reliance, responsibility, and family stability; and

WHEREAS, Welfare reform should move people from the welfare rolls to the work rolls through a system of incentives and limits that instill and reward positive behavior; and

WHEREAS, Welfare reform should result in work reform, including creating jobs for recipients that provide a living wage in order to establish a working community and to create an incentive for recipients to enter the workforce and thereby assure the well-being of dependent children; and

WHEREAS, It is the intent of the General Assembly to establish a welfare system that promotes greater economic self-sufficiency among Maryland families by emphasizing work through job search, job preparation, and job placement and by providing appropriate family support services, with an up-front understanding that such services are time limited and will be followed by mandatory subsidized or unsubsidized jobs or community service work assignments; now, therefore,

SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND, That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

**Article 88A – Social Services Administration**

54A.

(A) (1) IN THIS SECTION THE FOLLOWING TERMS HAVE THE MEANINGS INDICATED.

(2) ~~“PILOT” MEANS A WELFARE REFORM PILOT PROGRAM.~~

(2) “AFDC” MEANS AID TO FAMILIES WITH DEPENDENT CHILDREN.

(3) “BENEFIT” MEANS CASH ASSISTANCE RECEIVED UNDER THE PROGRAM OF AID TO FAMILIES WITH DEPENDENT CHILDREN ESTABLISHED UNDER TITLE IV, PART A, OF THE SOCIAL SECURITY ACT.

(4) “COMMUNITY SERVICE” MEANS THE PERFORMANCE OF WORK FOR A POLITICAL SUBDIVISION OF THE STATE, A PRIVATE NONPROFIT AGENCY OR INSTITUTION, OR OTHER ACTIVITY WHICH BENEFITS THE PUBLIC, AS DEFINED BY THE SECRETARY.

(5) “COMMUNITY WORK EXPERIENCE PROGRAM” MEANS A PROGRAM ESTABLISHED BY THE DEPARTMENT UNDER THE PILOT TO PROVIDE WORK EXPERIENCE TO A RECIPIENT WHO WAS UNABLE TO OBTAIN FULL-TIME PAID EMPLOYMENT THROUGH THE PILOT. THIS PROGRAM IS DESIGNED TO IMPROVE THE EMPLOYABILITY OF THE PARTICIPANT.

~~(5)~~ (6) “DEPARTMENT” MEANS THE DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN RESOURCES.

(6) ~~“GOOD CAUSE” SHALL BE DEFINED BY THE SECRETARY.~~